CLAIMS

1.   A method for judging use permission of information used by one or more terminal apparatuses which use content provided by a content provider and metadata which is data provided by a metadata provider and supplementing the content, the method comprising:

judging use permission of the metadata based on usage control information regarding use control of the metadata; and

using the metadata in the case where it is judged that the use of the metadata is permitted in said judging.

2.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the usage control information includes first signer identification information identifying a range of a provider of metadata that can be used,

the metadata includes a signature of the metadata provider identified in the first signer identification information, and second signer identification information identifying the signer of the signature, and

in said judging, it is judged whether the metadata use is permitted based on the metadata provider identified in said first signer identification information, said second identification information, and signature verification.

3.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 2,

wherein said first signer identification information is a flag identifying at least two from among (i) only the content provider, (ii) only the metadata provider whose public key certificate has been signed by the content provider, and (iii) no-limit.

4.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 3,

wherein the one or more terminal apparatuses hold a public
key certificate of the content provider, and

in said judging, it is judged that the content provider has signed, in the case where third signer identification information identifying the signer of the public key certificate of the content provider corresponds with the second signer identification information.

5.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 3,

wherein the one or more terminal apparatuses hold, in advance, content provider identification information uniquely identifying the content provider, and

in said judging, it is judged that the content provider has signed, in the case where the content provider identification information corresponds with the second signer identification information.

6.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 3,

wherein the content includes content provider identification information uniquely identifying the content provider, and

in said judging, it is judged that the content provider has signed, in the case where the content provider identification information corresponds with the second signer identification information.

7.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 3,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

5   in said judging, it is judged that the content provider has signed, in the case where the content provider identification information uniquely identifying the content provider included in the second license corresponds with the second signer identification information.

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8.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 2,

wherein said first signer identification information is identification information uniquely identifying a signer of the

15   metadata.

9.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 2,

wherein the metadata includes user identification information

20   indicating that the metadata is user metadata generated by a user in the one or more terminal apparatuses.

10.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 9,

25   wherein for the user metadata, a digital signature is omitted, and

in said judging, verification of the signature is omitted.

11.   The method for judging use permission of information

30   according to Claim 9,

wherein the user metadata is encrypted.

12.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 11,

wherein the one or more terminal apparatuses hold a domain key, and

5   the domain key decrypts the user metadata.

13.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 2,

wherein the content is encrypted,

10   the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the first signer identification information is included in the first license.

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14.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 2,

wherein the content is encrypted, and

the first signer identification information is included in the

20   encrypted content.

15.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 2,

wherein the metadata is encrypted, and

25   the first signer identification information includes an encryption key for decoding the encrypted metadata, and is included in a second license for using the metadata.

16.   The method for judging use permission of information

30   according to Claim 1,

wherein the usage control information includes reference specification information specifying a reference method of metadata

in using content, and

in said judging, metadata use permission in using content is judged based on the reference specification information.

5   17.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 16,

wherein the reference specification information is a flag which identifies whether the metadata can be used or not.

10 18.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 16,

wherein the reference specification information is identification information which uniquely identifies the metadata.

15 19.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 16,

wherein the reference specification information is identification information which uniquely identifies a signer of the metadata.

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20.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 16,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption

25 key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the reference specification information is included in the first license.

30 21.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 16,

wherein the reference specification information is included in

the content.

22.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the usage control information includes revision permission information indicating revision permission of meta data, and

in said judging, use permission of metadata is judged based on the revision permission information.

23.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is a flag identifying whether revision can be permitted or not.

24.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is identification information which uniquely identifies the metadata.

25.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is identification information which uniquely identifies the signer of the metadata.

26.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is either of terminal identification information which uniquely identifies the one or more terminal apparatuses and user identification information which uniquely identifies a user who uses the terminal apparatuses.

27.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the revision permission information is included in the first license.

28.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the revision permission information is included in the content.

29.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

the revision permission information is included in the second license.

30.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is included in the metadata.

31.   The method for judging use permission of information

according to Claim 1,

     wherein the usage control information includes control permission information indicating use permission of user metadata generated by a user in the one or more terminal apparatuses, and

5   in said judging, metadata use permission is judged based on the control permission information.

32.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 31,

10   wherein the content is encrypted,

     the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

     the control permission information is included in the first
15 license.

33.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 31,

     wherein the content is encrypted,

20   the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

     the control permission information is included in the content.

25 34.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

     wherein the usage control information includes moving range specifying information which specifies moving range of user metadata generated by a user in the one or more terminal
30 apparatuses, and

     in said judging, metadata use permission is judged based on the moving range specifying information.

35. The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein in the case where the moving range specifying
5 information indicates unlimited moving range, the metadata includes user identification information indicating that the metadata is user metadata generated in the one or more terminal apparatuses by a user,

for the user metadata a digital signature is omitted, and
10 in said judging, in the case where the user identification information is included, verification of the signature is omitted.

36. The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

15 wherein in the case where the moving range specifying information indicates that the moving range is limited to the one or more terminal apparatuses owned by a user, at least a part of the user metadata generated by the user in the one or more terminal apparatuses is encrypted using an encryption key common to the
20 one or more terminal apparatuses owned by the user.

37. The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 36,

wherein the encryption key common to the one or more
25 terminal apparatuses is a domain key, and

for the user metadata, at least a part of the user metadata is encrypted using the domain key.

38. The method for judging use permission of information
30 according to Claim 36,

wherein the encryption key common to the one or more terminal apparatuses is a secret key included by the terminal

apparatus, and

for the user metadata, at least a part of the user metadata is encrypted using the secret key.

5   39.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the

10   content, and

the moving range specifying information is included in the first license.

40.   The method for judging use permission of information

15   according to Claim 34,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

20   the moving range specifying information is included in the content.

41.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

25   wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

the revision permission information is included in the second

30   license.

42.   The method for judging use permission of information

according to Claim 34,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

the revision permission information is included in the metadata.

43. One or more terminal apparatuses which use content provided by a content provider and metadata which is data provided by a metadata provider and supplementing the content, the apparatus comprising:

metadata use permission judging unit operable to judge use permission of the metadata based on usage control information regarding use control of the metadata; and

use unit operable to use the metadata in the case where in said metadata use permission judging unit, the use of the metadata is permitted.

44. A transmitting apparatus which transmits, to one or more terminal apparatuses, content provided by a content provider and metadata which is data, provided by a metadata provider, supplementing the content, based on a request, the apparatus comprising

a means to transmit usage control information regarding use control of the metadata so as to have the one or more terminal apparatuses judge use permission of the metadata.

45. A content distribution system comprising

the one or more terminal apparatuses which judge use permission of the metadata or the user metadata, using the method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1.

46.   A program for judging use permission of information on one or more terminal apparatuses which use content provided by a content provider and metadata which is data provided by a metadata

5   provider and supplementing the content, the program comprising:

judging use permission of the metadata based on usage control information regarding use control of the metadata; and

using the metadata in the case where in said metadata use permission judging, the use of the metadata is permitted.

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